Departing Chair John Williams and Kayla Haynie reflect upon 21 years of service to English majors at Harding.

From the Former Chair:
Good-Bye to Kayla Haynie; Welcome Terry Engel

Arkansas just lost the liveliest museum this side of Crystal Bridges.
I’m talking about the “I Love Lucy” museum formerly located in American Studies 304 on the campus of Harding University. Granted, it was not technically a museum, but it could have been with its hundreds of photographs and array of memorabilia dedicated to Lucille Ball. Alas, with the sudden retirement this past spring of longtime English faculty member Kayla Haynie, that museum is no more.

Thanks to her curatorship, it was lively. Absent the hair-brained schemes of the 50s television show, Kayla was our Lucy, and much as Lucille Ball in her acting career, our beloved colleague could be both zany and regal as the occasion demanded.

I first met the zany Kayla when we came to Harding as teachers in the same year. At that time she occupied what is now Michael Claxton’s office, and I worked out of the office across the way, facing hers. That proximity is important to visualize how we bonded — more as a comedy team than as colleagues. Unfortunately for office decorum, we often lobbed various schticks back and forth, egged on by a student secretary who valued hijinks more than finished work. Before there was a Terry Engel, Kayla and I were the department’s reigning practical jokers, targeting mainly each other.

As Seinfeld might say, I loved zany Kayla. Therefore, it took awhile to appreciate her professional side, which subordinated without abandoning entirely the other persona. Students quickly detected this combination of authority and approachability and flocked to her classes. They saw her as the “fun aunt” whose house you loved to visit — a place where you felt welcomed, where work and play merged, and where good humor kept just enough company with discipline. More than one student learned that when Mrs. Haynie drew the line — whether in behavior or academic expectations — you crossed it at your peril.

When students came to her office, they got yet another side of Kayla, founded on her unique experience as a Christian. Before returning to her alma mater to teach in 1992, she had worked with husband Paul in the University of Arkansas campus ministry. There she did her share of counseling, in the process developing an enviable ability to listen and dispense good advice sparingly. At Harding, students who visited her office sometimes stayed for hours. In such cases, it was my duty to call her at a certain point with a fake directive to report to the chair’s office. That white lie allowed her to extricate herself without hurting any feelings. I don’t think we ever short-circuited any emotional rescues. At any rate, the students kept coming.

As a reward for her unique skill set, the department naturally assigned her the most difficult class in the curriculum: English 251. I don’t even remember what we called it, but shorn of euphemism, it was simply “bonehead” English, designed for students whose composition grades threatened their graduation. Because most of them hated writing classes in the first place, they delayed taking the course until their senior year, so access to their futures was all coming down to this one monstrous barrier. As you might imagine, a discernible surliness pervaded the classroom.

It was the closest Kayla came to being in
From the Chair (Cont. from One)

an actual Lucy sitcom situation. I’m sure there were times when the unwrapped candy came too fast down the conveyor belt or the footing amid the crushed grapes was treacherous. But Kayla pulled it off. Think of her as a friendly lion-tamer: She managed to quell the rage and, most of the time, save the students for graduation. Her ability to get something from those potentially hostile classes is the academic equivalent of Lucille Ball’s triumph in the competitive world of entertainment. As professionals, both women made their difficult jobs seem easy, but while working hard, they also got results because they were easy to love.

It seems fitting that Kayla and I should step down in the same year. After all, look what happened to Martin when Lewis left him. Quite seriously, I will miss seeing Kayla every day, but that is also true of the other dozen or so colleagues with whom I have worked, in some cases for decades. The pleasure of their company lightened my load on many a day.

And I will miss the students, to all of whom I owe a debt of gratitude, mainly for the sheer fact of their “being,” unique to each one. Regardless of how much contact we may have had, at the very least I benefited from a glimpse of their God-given individuality. In many cases, of course, what I saw was so much more in the way of talent and character. My fantasy farewell column would consist of only the words “thank you” in the largest font possible, each letter formed of the names of English majors so that each graduate from 1993-2014 could be represented. Over the years I’ve heard enough from and about alumni to be grateful for what you have become, but I do treasure what you meant to us back when. Among my many sins is a failure to offer that thanks to enough students (or colleagues) when I had the chance to do it in person. I count on your forgiveness for that and other shortcomings.

I wish my friend Terry Engel well in his tenure as chair. He is a dedicated teacher, a supremely cooperative colleague, and a willing mentor to students. He will bring a laid back, plain-spoken earnestness to the job, and he will place the welfare of our majors at the top of his priorities. I know that because I’ve been watching him do these things for the last decade plus. He will need help, of course, which he will get, as I and other chairs did, from his colleagues and majors. May God also add His guidance and strength — and may He bless our university and this department to accomplish the goals that best serve His purpose.

Facility News

Nick Boone’s poem “In-Law” was published in Far From the Centers of Ambition, Vol. 1: Confluences. His scholarly articles, “Jorie Graham’s ‘Fission,’” was published in The Explicator and “D. H. Lawrence’s ‘Men Must Work and Women Must Work as Well’ in Aldous Huxley’s Brave New World” was published in Notes and Queries. “A Levinasian Meditation on Pynchon’s ‘Entropy,’” which was originally presented at the 2011 Arkansas Philological Association conference, was published in Philological Review. He reviewed two books, “Just Saying,” by Rae Armantrout, and “Jorie Graham’s Place: New Poems,” for the Southern Humanities Review.

Heath Carpenter spent the past year on leave at Arkansas State University pursuing a Ph.D. in Heritage Studies. He wrote the forthcoming The Power of 12: Mentoring the Next Generation with Keith Jackson, Super-Bowl champion and founder of the not-for-profit P.A.R.K. (Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids). Carpenter published creative writing in the Dead Mule School of Southern Literature and twice told stories for the internationally broadcast radio program Tales from the South, and he presented a lecture on postmodernism to the 2013 Arkansas Governors School.

Michael Claxton and Jordan Dollins (’11) adapted Gilbert and Sullivan’s Pirates of Penzance for the 2013 Homecoming musical. He wrote parodies of songs from Frozen as the club intro songs for Spring Sing 2014, and he wrote a regular column for The Bison, “Just the Clax.” Claxton was on sabbatical to work on a book on the lady magician Dell O’Dell and her juggler husband, Charlie Carrer. The book is scheduled for publication by Squash Press in November 2014.

Kathy Dillion attended the NCTE convention in Boston in the fall. She had two publications — one a chapter in an anthology, Muslims and American Popular Culture, published in February by Prager and the other a book review in The Arkansas Review (pending). Last summer she taught a humanities class at Pepperdine University.

Stephanie Eddleman’s poem “When I Was Young,” was published in Patsy Clairmont’s book Twirl: A Fresh Spin at Life. She convened a session at the 2013 Christian Scholars Conference called “Fire and Dove: The Pursuit of God Through Prose, Poetry, and Praise.” Her presentation was titled “Jubilee: Words of Rest, Reflection, and Recovery.” In addition, Eddleman began a regular blog focusing on spiritual exploration (see related story page 4).

Terry Engel was named chair of the English Department. He read from his short story “Next Year, Or the Next,” at a fundraising event for the White County Literacy Council, where he also volunteers as a tutor. His article, “Jim Harrison’s True North: A Contemporary Nick Adams Grows up in Hemingway’s ‘Big Two-Hearted River’ Country,” which was originally presented at the Arkansas Philological Association annual meeting and was published in Philological Review, was reprinted in the “‘Big Two-Hearted River’ by Ernest Hemingway” volume of Short Story Criticism. In addition to beginning his own creative writing blog (see related story page 4), he was the guest blogger for Harding Magazine’s “Guest Post Wednesday” series in February.

Nathan Henton began his doctoral course work in composition studies at the University of Memphis in fall 2013. He plans to finish in late 2016 or early 2017 and will continue his regular duties for the English Department as he studies.

Larry Hunt wrote and illustrated the children’s book, Enoch Walked With God. It is available through Eastern Gate Press on Facebook.

Continued on Page Seven
Ten years after Facebook, which frankly took our faculty a long time to adventure into, alumni and faculty have begun exploring the world of blogging as a creative and informative outlet. The range of topics is wide and refreshing. Below you’ll find information on those who responded to the call for updates. If you missed that call, be sure to send in updates for future inclusion in the newsletter.

**Alumni Blogs**

**Nicole (Dicken) Boehrig ('08)**
**Exposed: My Heart Exposed in the Journey of Kingdom-Bringing**
boehrig.wordpress.com

Nicole and husband Sean blog about their adventures and mission work through Manna Global Missions in Swaziland, Africa. The blog describes how Nicole and Sean have followed their mission “to serve the marginalized in developing nations, so that the nations might hear Christ’s Good News.” Sean melds ministry and vocational work, while Nicole works with teenagers and young women. Most recently, Nicole has been working as a doula, or labor coach, to assist pregnant women during birth. Her posts cover a range of topics, from “Adventures in Doulaing” to “In the Garden,” and from “Social Justice” to “Kingdom Coming Related.”

**Alexandra Robison ('14)**
**alleyinafrica: Living Life in Kampala, Uganda**
alleyinafrica.wordpress.com

Alley Robison graduated in May and in June moved to Kampala, Uganda, where she has been “working as an executive assistant intern for International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM is a Christian human rights agency whose mission is to protect people from violent forces of injustice by securing rescue and restoration for victims and ensuring public justice systems work for the poor.”

**Nelson Shake ('10)**
**Phase Two: The married, pre-children life**

nelsonshake.tumblr.com

This is Nelson’s second blog, inspired by major life changes that include completing a master’s in literature, getting married, and beginning a Ph.D. program at Texas A & M. On starting his second blog, Nelson writes: “By the time I started back up, life looked different and in a good way. Marriage refines, more so than anything that’s come before it. It is Phase Two. Everything leading up to marriage, for me, has been Phase One. Though this blog will probably still be a place for short essays on literature, religion, people and their behaviors, culture, and society like my last one, I suppose the main difference here is now it’s not just me talking. My wife, Sally, has incredible influence on me and vis-a-versa. She speaks through me just as much as I’m the one writing words down here.”

**Sheila (Underwood) Vamplin ('88)**
**Folks, Flocks, and Flowers**
www.folkflocksflowers.blogspot.com

Subtitled “Musings, meditations, and meandering thoughts about people, animals, plants, and other things related to living in this beautiful and messed up world,” Inspired by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Sheila’s writing connects with the glory of creation and the struggles of fallenness. Sheila quotes Dostoevski: “Love all God’s creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God’s light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day.”
Brave New World (cont. from Page 3)

Erin (Healy) Wetzel ('05)
Snippets from a happy little life; finding eternal beauty in ordinary moments
ekwetzel.com

As she writes on her blog, Erin is a “painter and a poet. I find inspiration in everyday moments. My mission is to use my work to help others focus on the miracles right in front of them. I believe in the blessings of family, children and work. I believe in the strength of gentleness and the importance of play. I believe in the extraordinary beauty of an ordinary life. I create art to inspire, uplift and encourage.” Her blog features original art as well as reflections on a life lived deliberately.

Lauren (Smelser) White ('04)
Guest Blogger “The Tokens Show”
tokenshow.com/category/blog

Tokens is a live radio broadcast described by Sojourners magazine as “if a Prairie Home Companion ever moved south and got religion — or at least went to divinity school — it might look a lot like Tokens.” The Englewood Review of Books describes the show as “one of today’s finest exemplars of exploration around the intersections of theology and the performing arts.” Lauren’s most recent post can be read at tokenshow.com/lauren-smelser-white-the-season-of-pregnancy.

Faculty Blogs

Stephanie Eddleman
Stephanie M. Eddleman: Living the Questions
stephanieeddleman.com

Stephanie writes: “This blog is about pursuing the Divine Mystery, about pondering paradoxes, about celebrating the holy particularity of each individual soul. . . . . This blog is about honoring truth wherever I find it and celebrating the glory wherever it appears. It’s about realizing that, while it seems like a lot of other people have all the answers, often all I have is questions and learning to be okay with that. It’s about having the courage to ask those questions . . . . This blog is about freeing myself from perfectionism, about learning who I am and embracing it. It’s about figuring out why God put me here and made me like this and what I’m being called to do. It’s about being willing to grow, to dare greatly, to become God’s highest vision of me. This blog is about drinking coffee on the front porch in the early morning and seeing God in the reds and golds and in the clarity of sunrise. It’s about trees — I’m not sure why — and the wisdom of children. It’s about honoring my body and how doing so is good for my soul. It’s about myth and stories and poetry and words and what they teach me about Life and God. This blog is about love and positive energy and joy. It’s about celebrating the true, the good, and the beautiful.”

Terry Engel
Arkansas Stories by Terry Engel
arkansasstoriesbyterryengel.wordpress.com

“Having a blog forces me to write,” Engel says. “When a couple of days go by without a post, I start to feel the pressure. The second best thing is knowing there’s an audience out there, most days, people who form a supportive community.” Engel’s blog is a mix of fiction and creative non-fiction, and while some pieces are drawn from past writings, most of the newer pieces are drawn from life in Arkansas. Engel describes the blog this way: “For the past 12 and a half years I’ve lived in Arkansas with my family, and during that time I’ve never failed to be amazed by the people who live here and their stories.

My fiction and creative nonfiction have been inspired by these people, whether the stories were culled from the newspaper, heard over the radio, related by friends and acquaintances, directly observed, or even just imagined. What compels a man to walk into Wal-Mart and try to destroy every Dora the Explorer bedside lamp on the shelf? What desperation, or inspiration, led to a roadside burrito stand selling roadkill deer meat instead of beef? What sort of family history would lead to a middle-aged man standing in a grove of trees on a frosty New Year’s Eve at midnight at the exact time thousands of red-winged blackbirds died and fell to the earth like heavy drops of rain? What to do about a brooding backyard chicken named Harper, who insists on attacking whoever goes into the pen? What does it feel like, at 53, to tap dance to disco in an auditorium packed with friends and strangers? These are the stories you can expect to read on this blog. Welcome, and tell me what you think.”

Larry Hunt
The Eastern Gate Press
easterngatepress.wordpress.com

Larry Hunt’s Bible Commentary, along with information about his self-published and illustrated books, can be found on the Eastern Gate Press blog. The Bible study is “a collection of Hunt’s Bible study notes spanning the past 20 years of personal Bible study. The vision for this project is to present a free online chapter by chapter commentary for each book of the Bible.”

New and old English majors and friends introduce themselves at the beginning of the year cookout.
1998
Sheila Underwood Vamplin is in private practice as a licensed marital and family counselor. She is working on a Doctor of Ministry degree in spiritual formation at Lipscomb University. She also teaches piano lessons and sings with the Rhodes mastersingers Chorale.

1990
Will Everett works as communications director on an aid project in Afghanistan. As an international radio journalist, his work appeared on numerous National Public Radio magazines. He has worked in Afghanistan since 2010.

1992
Brenda Vallette-Cornell lives in San Antonio, Texas, is married to Mark Cornell who is also an alumnus of Harding, and is the English department coordinator for two high schools in Texas: Holmes High School and Business Careers High School (which is an IT/business magnet school). They have three children: Shelby, 17; Griften, 15, and Brendan, 12. Mark is currently retiring from the USAF and is a CRNA.

2002

Laura (Darnell) Homer and husband John have a son, David, who was born in 2009, and a daughter, Phoebe, who was born in 2012. John teaches computer science at Abilene Christian University. Laura edits books for ACU Press and other companies.

Justin Williams and wife Rachel (’10) have two daughters: Arabel, 3, and Aliza, 2. He teaches English and writing at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas.

2004
David Pritchett recently moved to Portland, Oregon, with his wife, Lizz Scallert, and is working at a drug and alcohol detox facility as a physician assistant as well as doing permaculture design work.

1998
Lauren (Smelser) White and husband Jason (’04) welcome the birth of Everett Baker White, on May 10, 2014.

2005
Elizabeth Clybern graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in December 2012 with a Master of Arts in professional and technical writing. She assisted Billy Corgan (front man of The Smashing Pumpkins) with research for his upcoming spiritual memoir. She is a full-time instructor at Pulaski Technical College teaching first-year composition courses. She lives in Lonoke, Arkansas, with husband Brock.

Jacqueline Dillion graduated in June 2014 from the University of St. Andrews with a Ph.D. in English literature. Her dissertation title was Thomas Hardy: Folklore and Resistance. She continues to work with Harding University’s Office of International Programs and will spend the upcoming year teaching on Harding’s Australasia and Latin America programs.

Matt and Caitlin (Hammitt) Hainley have been married nine years. They welcomed their fourth child on June 19, 2014. Matt delivered the baby. Matt works as a network engineer, while Caitlin recently graduated as a registered nurse. She has been accepted into a midwifery program.

Everett Reed and wife Melody announce the birth of Judah Nathaniel on February 12, 2014.

Scott and Emily (’04) Walters announce the birth of Annalyn Scott on Feb. 3, 2014. This is their third child. Scott recently became a secondary supervisor of instruction for the Wilson County school system near Nashville, Tennessee. Before that he was a high school assistant principal.

Erin (Healy) Wetzel works as an artist and does portrait commissions. Information about her art and blog can be found on page 4.


2006

2007
Julie Dow completed an M.A. in Post-1900 British & American lit from Florida State University. She lives in Kansas City, Missouri, and works as a document archivist as well as freelance editor, academic proofreader, and ESL tutor for Chinese students.


Caroline (Shrum) Prestridge and husband Adam live in Sherwood, Arkansas. They welcomed the birth of Lucy Eleanor on Nov. 3, 2013. Caroline is a stay-at-home wife and mother as well as the children’s ministry coordinator at the Somers Avenue Church of Christ.

Emily (Stutzman) Jones and her husband Clay Jones welcomed a baby boy, Mark Clayton, Feb. 9, 2013. Also, Emily recently accepted a position as assistant professor and academic director of Lipscomb University’s Institute for Sustainable Practice to begin January 2015.

2008
Jennifer (Harris) Hannigan received an M.Ed. in English from Harding University in December 2013. In 2012 she designed and distributed a survey of English department alumni, analyzed the results, and reported them to the faculty. Also, she taught copy editing for the communication department as an adjunct.

William Hawk Medders married Katie Moran on Nov. 16, 2013 in Resaca, Georgia. They live in Nashville.

Ike and Alexis (Gentry) Peters announce the birth of Elliott Edward on Nov. 13, 2013.

Liz Pippens lives in Denver, Colorado, where she teaches 7th- and 8th-grade language, arts, and drama. Her daughter, Ava, was born Dec. 12, 2013.

Nathan Shank is composition director at Oklahoma Christian University. He passed
Alumni News

his comprehensive exams and dissertation prospectus defense at the University of Kentucky, where he worked as the assistant editor on the Victarians Institute Journal. His chapter, “Irony as Empathy in Cognitive Narrative Studies,” is forthcoming in Rethinking Empathy: What Literature Can Teach Us About Feeling With Others.

Michael Wright was recently named editorial and social media specialist for Fuller Theological Seminary. Fuller integrates psychology, mission work, culture, and Christian theology. Last summer, he presented a paper at the Christian Scholars Conference with Stephanie Eddleman on faith and poetry. The session is titled “The Fire and the Dove: The Pursuit of God through Poetry, Prose and Praise.”

2009

Amber Barnett spent the past four years teaching English to elementary and junior high students in Kochi, Japan. She now teaches 10th-12th grade at Omaha High School in Arkansas.

Joanna Benskin is working toward a Ph.D. in comparative literature at Purdue. She presented “‘Fusing ‘Dedly Fleysh’ and ‘Spiritual Thynge’: Percivall’s Sister, the Eucharist, and Gender in Malory’s Grail Quest” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. She successfully defended her prospectus for a dissertation about gender and spiritual quests in Malory, Spenser, Sidney, and Shakespeare. She also received a Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award for 2013-14 for her world literature class.

Karie Cross passed her comprehensive exams for the Ph.D. program at the University of Notre Dame.

Jordan (Bailey) Flippin and her husband announce the birth of Ella Bailey on June 12, 2014.


Vincent Smith Wagner and wife Alia announce the birth of Esme Annabelle on Nov. 17, 2013. Vincent recently graduated from law school at the University of Texas at Austin.

2010

Michael Brooker lives in Burbank, California, where he is an assistant at 1895 Films. He is writing and directing a web series titled “Love and Other Ingredients” (for more information go to https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/696391917/love-and-other-ingredients).

Marisa (Smith) Lytle is the associate editor of Celebrate Arkansas Magazine, located in Bentonville and a freelance writer for Peekaboo, an Arkansas family magazine. She and husband Anthony live in Fayetteville.

Nick Michael works with 1504 Pictures and is producing a video series on American jazz for NPR.

Emily (Hauptli) Sanders is a freelance editor and recently copyedited a political thriller novel, written by former HU student Jordan Ervin. The Crimson Fall is available on Amazon.

Nelson Shake began a Ph.D. in English at Texas A&M.

2011

Rebekah Craig edited a cookbook called A Treat for the Week...and More by Ruth Williams. She is a reading tutor through the White County Literacy Council. She attended a Christian writers conference in Colorado in 2014.

Jocelyn McClung married David Lasley on Oct. 13, 2013. She works as an admissions counselor while pursuing a master’s in English literature through Southern New Hampshire University’s online program.


2012

Claire (Moore) Dangerfield married Spenser Dec. 22, 2013. She teaches 7th, 9th, and 10th grade English and sponsors the yearbook at White County Central High School in Judsonia, Arkansas.

Sarah Eason graduated from Abilene Christian University with a Master of Arts in English literature. Her thesis was titled “Myth and Magic in The Lord of the Rings: A Christian Approach to Fantasy Literature.” She recently published an article in Persuasions Online, a journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America, and a second article in CCTE Studies (Conference of College Teachers of English). While at ACU she taught freshman English.

Nekia Shelton works as a circulation assistant at Harding’s Brackett Library.

2013

Emily Chaffin is working on an M.Ed. from Harding. She teaches 8th-grade English at Lewisburg Middle School in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Carlton Norris married Sarah Manning June 8, 2013. Carlton teaches 7th-grade English at Hugo Owens Middle School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Victoria Randolph teaches 6th grade in Rogers, Arkansas.

Maggie Rothe married Stephen Beck on May 10, 2014. She completed her M.Ed. from Harding in May and will teach 7th -grade English in Cabot, Arkansas.

Laura Smith completed her first year of master’s study in history at the University of Arkansas. She recently received a graduate assistantship to work with the honors college on event planning and recruitment.

2014

Abbie Adkinson was accepted into the Teach for America Program. She will be working in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Madison Nelson was accepted into the Master’s in Teaching Excellence program at Harding University.

Mallory Pratt’s lyric essay “Sunflower Men” won second place and publication in the undergraduate literary magazine Polaris.

Creative Writing at Harding: a blog for creative writing and other media by alumni, students, and faculty

hardingenglish.wordpress.com

Our new blog presents the creative spirit of the Harding University English Department. Students, alumni, faculty, and friends are welcome to submit works of original poetry, prose, art, video, music, or other work suitable to a blog. God spoke the world into existence. Please share your creative spirit with the world.

The English Department has a long tradition of fostering and publishing the creative writing of our students.

Shapes and Names, now in its 34th volume dating back to 1977, grew out of the vision of students eager to publish their creative work. The title of the publication comes from Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”:

The poet’s eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to Earth, from Earth to heaven;
And as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet’s pen
Turns them into shapes and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.

Years later, in 2003, a second group of students, growing out of the Scribblers Creative Writing club sponsored by the English Department, created a second literary magazine, which they self-funded and self-published every year since. Shook Foil takes its name from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

Both publications will continue in their present form, but our hope is with the creation of this blog we can reach an even wider audience, not to mention explore new media. We hope to post on a regular basis, weekly or semi-weekly.

The first step will be to choose a better name for the blog (Creative Writing at Harding is not very creative). The second step will be to log in to the site and “Follow,” so that you’ll be notified when a new post comes up. Submissions in the form of Word files, as well as suggestions for the blog, may be directed to:

Terry Engel or Jennifer Lowe
tengel@harding.edu jlowe@harding.edu

Departmental News

The department welcomes two new faculty in fall 2014:

Russell Keck, who graduated from Harding in 2006, completed his Ph.D. in English renaissance and medieval literature from Purdue University.

Charles Bane, who most recently taught at the University of Central Arkansas, completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University with an emphasis on twentieth century literature and film history.

The department invited three visiting writers to campus the past year:

Michael Gray, author of The Bob Dylan Encyclopedia, discussed the influence of the Blues on Dylan’s music. Arkansas poets Angie Macri and Sandy Longhorn read from their collections.

Faculty News

cont. from page Seven

Greg Laing successfully defended his dissertation titled Bound by Words: The Motif of Oath-Taking and Oath-Breaking in Medieval Iceland and Anglo-Saxon England. He earned his Ph.D. from the Graduate College at Western Michigan University.

Jon Singleton presented “Identifying with Saul and Sisera: Brontë’s Anti-heroine and the Ambiguous Ethics of Bringing up the Bible in Public” at the 2013 Christian Scholars Conference. His review of Norman Vance’s Bible and Novel: Narrative Authority and the Death of God, is forthcoming in the Journal of Theological Studies.

Administrative assistant Jennifer Lowe and husband Brandon completed the adoption of Mason Mitchell Lowe on Feb. 10, 2014.

The department employed five adjunct teachers: Lisa Burley, Grant Dillon, Holly (Threm) Goslin, Ann Harrington, and Nekia Shelton.
### Our Newest Alumni

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<th>Degree</th>
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| M.Ed. | | Nicole Replogle |
|       | | Alexandra Robison |
|       | | Nathan Steritz   |
|       | | Benjamin Whisenant |
|       | | Jamie Williams   |
|       | | * Teaching licensure |

### Creative Writing Awards

#### Poetry
- 1st Maddi Nelson
- 2nd Ben Whisenant
- 3rd Shelby Griffith

#### Non-Fiction
- 1st Stephen Mead
- 2nd Mallory Pratt
- 3rd Nicole Replogle

#### Fiction
- 1st Julie Ann White
- 2nd Savannah Slape
- 3rd Sisan McNeil

#### Bad Writing
- 1st Sisan McNeil
- 2nd Savannah Slape
- 3rd Melora Hawley

### Updates

Please send news, including current email address to:

Terry Engel  
Harding University  
Box 12248  
Searcy, AR 72149  
tengel@harding.edu

Website: www.harding.edu/english  
Facebook: The English Department ~ Harding University

Correction: In last summer’s newsletter Lauren Thompson was misidentified as Lauren Smith.